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(4) Khan Bahadur S. K. Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur, M.L.C.
(5) M.R.Ry. S. Arputhaswami Udayar Avargal, M.L.C.
(6) ,, P. V. Manikka Nayakar Avargal, B.E., Retired Superintending Engineer.
(7) ,, R. S. Nayudu Avargal, Chairman, Municipal Council, Madura.
(8) Mr. A. McG. C. Tampoe, I.C.S., M.L.C., Secretary to Government, Development Department.

The Government regret they cannot discuss the merits and qualifications of the members. But they have satisfied themselves that the selected gentlemen have qualifications sufficient to advise Government on the points referred to them.

(c) The personnel of the Committee includes members acquainted with the conditions of fishermen and with the principal fishery institutions.

(d) & (e) The suggestion of the fishermen communities that practical fishermen should be associated with the Committee came too late, and, for the reasons given in (c), the Government did not think it essential to adopt it.

(f) All the past work of the department will come under review by the Committee.

(g) Sir K. V. Reddi was selected as a member of the Committee in view of the invaluable knowledge he possesses of the work of the department. He was chosen as Chairman because of his personal qualifications.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"With reference to the answer to clause (g), in view of the fact that Sir K. V. Reddi was the Minister in charge of Fisheries, may I know whether the Government considered him a fit person to judge of the merits of the work done during his term of office?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"That is asking for an opinion."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"I want to know whether Sir K. V. Reddi was asked to give his opinion of the work done in the Fisheries Department during his term of office?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"That is asking for an opinion."

Answers to the Questionnaire issued by the Fisheries Committee.

*72 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) when the Fisheries Committee was appointed, when the questionnaire was issued, and what time was given to the public for furnishing answers;

(b) whether any gentleman pointed out to Government or to the Secretary of the Committee the shortness of the time allowed and the necessity for giving more time;

(c) if so, what answer was given; and

(d) the necessity for giving such short time for furnishing the information required?

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A.—(*a*) The Fisheries Committee was constituted towards the end of May 1928 and it held its first meeting to settle the preliminaries and draft the questionnaire on 4th June 1928. The questionnaire was issued to the newspapers for publication on 22nd June 1928. Copies were sent later to certain gentlemen. The Committee concluded its sittings on the 27th July. Gentlemen interested in the subject could have sent their replies at any time before the 27th July. Certain gentlemen whom the Committee proposed to examine as witnesses were requested to send in their answers as early as possible.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No answer was given because none was required.

(*d*) The time at the disposal of the Committee before the preparation of the budget for the next financial year was short and the Chairman of the Committee had to absent from India from early August to end of October.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" Why is it there was so much hurry in issuing the questionnaire and requiring the Committee to submit its report within so short a time ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" The answer has already been given."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" When the financial budget is prepared in the month of October or November, why was the opinion required to be submitted by the end of this month ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" They want time to consider the report."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" Has the report been submitted now ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" Not yet."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" When is the Chairman expected back ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" In October or November."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" Then will there be time enough to consider the report ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" We hope so."

Recommendations of the Fisheries Committee.

* 73 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased

(i) to lay before the House the report and recommendations of the Fisheries Committee, the summary of the written and oral evidence taken by them and the orders of the Government thereon ; and

(ii) to state whether Government have decided to transfer any of the functions of the Fisheries Department to the Salt and other departments ?

A.—(i) The request will be considered after the Committee's report is received.

(ii) No.